

**Address**  
**to the Permanent Council of the**  
**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**  
**by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**  
**H.E. Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko**

Special Permanent Council Meeting of the OSCE  
Vienna, 20 June 2012

**Mr. Chairperson,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great pleasure to address the Permanent Council today in my capacity as the incoming OSCE Chair. I would like to express my appreciation to the Irish Chairmanship-in-Office for this opportunity to share with you our vision of the strategic directions in which the future Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship will lead the ambitions and political will of all 56 participating States next year.

We will take the Chairmanship from the hands of our Irish colleagues who are promoting, with dedication and perseverance, realistic and pragmatic steps towards enhancing OSCE's capacity to fulfill its fundamental objectives.

This excludes any revolutions during our Chairmanship, neither in Vienna, nor in Kyiv, and I am afraid to disappoint those who see every new Chairmanship as a ground breaking beginning. Because we believe that it is not the fundamentals of the OSCE that needs to change. The change should occur in the mindsets – from confrontational thinking to cooperative approach.

For this reason, Ukraine sees its Chairmanship's mission, first and foremost, in further promoting conditions, which would lead to this kind of change.

We proceed from the understanding, and we hope that this understanding is shared by our OSCE partners, that just as the Chairmanship is not a platform for promoting narrow national interests, so is it not the means for states or groups of states to push bilateral agenda.

Ukraine has always supported the important role of the OSCE in ensuring European and Eurasian security and stability. We do believe in the historic mission and potential of this Organization as a unique platform for an open dialogue among partners, which is conducted on an equal footing and in the spirit of mutual respect. We stand resolute to contribute to the establishment of the OSCE Security Community free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security.

In pursuing this aim, Ukraine as the OSCE Chair will be guided by the principles of equality, partnership cooperation, inclusiveness and transparency.

The principles of the Ukrainian foreign policy are fully in line with the OSCE's core principles and commitments. Strengthening the OSCE, promoting its values and implementation of commitments across all three dimensions will constitute the main task for our agenda in the year 2013.

We will try to re-energize existing negotiating formats, and to make use of other possibilities that are agreed by all parties concerned in order to advance the resolution of protracted conflicts. At the same time we will continue to promote discussions on enhancing capacities for preventing emergence of new conflicts. Ukraine will strive to strengthen the OSCE's early warning mechanisms, and its preparedness to act effectively and quickly whenever needed.

Observance of commitments by all participating States, on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, elimination of all forms of discrimination, freedom of the media, promotion of tolerance, free movement of people are the areas of importance for OSCE participating States and thus will be the focus of attention of the Ukrainian Chairmanship.

Ukraine will realize its priorities on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act, Charter for European Security, decisions of the OSCE Council of Ministers with due respect to the positions of all OSCE participating States and the rule of consensus as the linchpin for OSCE decision-making.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ukraine will seek to strengthen the status of the OSCE as a regional security organization that promotes openness, transparency and cooperation in political and military sphere. This is particularly important for the security of those OSCE participating States that do not belong to any politico-military alliances. We are convinced that progress in re-establishing the conventional armed forces regime in Europe depends essentially on the political will and commitment of all parties concerned. We will actively engage in the efforts to seek a new basis for a future agreement. Ukraine sees merit in initiating a new dialogue within the OSCE aimed at elaborating fundamental principles of a future conventional arms control applicable to all OSCE participating States.

Ukraine actively supports the FSC's activities in promoting the implementation of existing commitments in the politico-military area and improving, where necessary, the OSCE politico-military toolbox.

As a strong advocate of global and regional non-proliferation, Ukraine is encouraged by the efforts of the FSC Chair to find the way forward on bringing the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation into line with present realities. Ukraine together with Poland as a co-sponsor of our proposal will continue to contribute to this important endeavour.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Increasing the OSCE effectiveness in early warning and early action according to the Vilnius Ministerial Council decision on elements of the conflict cycle is the key element for strengthening the Organization's relevance to the participating States and an important building block on the way to a Security Community.

We welcome the joint initiative of the Irish Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat to start dialogue among the participating States to consolidate the Organization's early warning capacity in a more comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner within available resources.

A constantly growing stimulus should be given to the collective practical efforts aimed at resolving protracted conflicts in the OSCE area by supporting and facilitating dialogue between the conflicting parties. As a co-mediator and guarantor in the Transdniestrian settlement process, Ukraine will continue efforts aimed at resolving the conflict by actively facilitating progress in the established "5+2" format.

We are convinced that sustainable and long-term settlement of the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area can only be achieved by peaceful means and on the basis of principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

It is our intention to actively support OSCE efforts to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in responding to emerging transnational threats, improving border security and border management, countering terrorism, combating drug trafficking as well as training of law enforcement officers.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The second dimension of the OSCE has remained, for some objective reasons, underutilized, despite its essential role in the comprehensive approach to security and its crucial importance for all participating States. The Ukrainian Chairmanship will continue to support the development of an institutionally strong second dimension to provide the participating States with assistance and expertise in responding to the new economic and environmental challenges. Ukraine will build upon the recently launched discussions to determine if the Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental dimension needs to be adapted to the evolving economic and environmental situation.

Our major thematic focus will be attached to the environmental impact of energy-related activities, energy saving and renewable sources of energy. We count on the support of participating States for the topic of the next year's Economic and Environmental Forum.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,**

Security of a human being remains at the heart of the comprehensive security approach of the OSCE. Promotion of implementation by all participating States, without exception, of the existing commitments in the human dimension will be at the top of the Ukrainian Chairmanship's agenda.

But let me stress here that the primary responsibility for that lies upon all participating States. The Chairmanship shall not mentor the members and enforce at national level what should be enforced by the respective governments themselves. All of our 56 participating States can find scope for improvement on implementation, as none of us is perfect. Equally, by the way, any member state or group of states should not mentor the Chair to make its already difficult task even more challenging. We are looking and welcome assistance to the Chair with no strings attached. The kind of assistance that serves the benefit of this Organization.

We will do our utmost in steering the complex activities of this Organization towards ensuring the necessary continuity in the human dimension and keeping, in a coherent manner, the much-needed balance between the three OSCE dimensions.

Particular attention will be focused on the media freedom in the context of developing necessary legal framework, as well as on fight against trafficking in human beings, youth education on the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the area of cyber security, promotion of gender equality, constructive engagement of civil society in achieving the goals of the OSCE.

The scope of commitments in the human dimension has been continuously developed by the collective work of the participating States and the three OSCE autonomous institutions – HCNM, ODIHR and RFOM which operate according to their mandates. We consider them as one of the OSCE's greatest assets, as they have specific expertise in their respective fields which are unique among international organizations. We believe in our fruitful cooperation with the OSCE institutions, the Parliamentary Assembly and all participating States in preparation of a well-balanced and forward-looking human dimension agenda for the following year.

**Mr. Chairman,**

To guarantee the OSCE's relevance for years to come, we must pursue a forward-looking policy aimed at asserting its identity and enhancing coordination with its major partners – the United Nations, NATO, the Council of Europe and other regional and subregional organizations.

We are in favor of a strong OSCE as a regional security organization, keeping in mind that it was never supposed to be the United Nations in the Northern Hemisphere. We see the value of the OSCE in its unique comprehensive mandate and

inclusiveness, in its geographic limits and agenda, that should not be duplicating other players and be too overwhelming to implement.

We believe that transformation of the OSCE into a full-fledged international organization will definitely produce a revival of interest in the OSCE, help achieve its new operating status of a recognizable, respectable and well-positioned entity, and harmonize its relationship with other international actors in a mutually supportive way.

The role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in achieving the goals of the Organization cannot be underestimated. Ukraine as a Chair will continue to support Assembly's constructive engagement.

Enhanced cooperation with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation, implementation of decisions on OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan will be among priorities of the Ukrainian Chairmanship. Ukraine considers such cooperation to be increasingly important when global security challenges require common solutions.

It is also essential to have a better understanding of the Organization's strategic priorities and early indication of overall resource commitments, which would allow the OSCE to design more tailored work programs with reasonable cost estimates. We support the efforts of the Irish Chairmanship in this area and express our readiness to actively participate in the ongoing discussion regarding strategic planning and the budgetary process. We also count on a timely approval of the Unified Budget for 2013 which would provide a solid foundation for the OSCE's activities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We must avail ourselves of the existing unique opportunity, when the OSCE Chairmanships are determined until 2015, to chart a strategic path and commit to resolving issues that undermine operational capabilities and thus effectiveness of this Organization. It is up to each and every delegation to ensure that this process is successful and that this Organization has not only a remarkable past but a promising future.

Let me conclude by saying that in preparation for the Chairmanship, while setting and fine-tuning the priorities for 2013, the Ukrainian delegation will continue to closely consult with all participating States, Heads of the OSCE Institutions and Field Operations towards streamlining and improving our decision-making practices and day-to-day running procedures.

Ukraine will lead the OSCE on behalf of all of you: everyone and all together. Therefore the Chair's success will be our common success. Helping the Chair is helping yourself, helping Organization in its entirety. We count on your support for our common endeavours.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**